

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 TRSE-00

CPR-02 L-03 SS-20 NSC-07 SP-03 USIE-00 DRC-01 DODE-00

PA-04 PRS-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /096 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2967

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 6355

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: REPLY TO FOREIGN SECRETARY'S NOTE ON ILLEGAL ALIENS

REFS: A. STATE 161834 B. JOVA-TORREY TELECON 7/26/74

1. AS INSTRUCTED, DELIVERED NOTE TO LIC. RUBEN GONZALEZ SOSA, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN SECRETARIAT IN RABASA'S ABSENCE ON PRESIDENTIAL TRIP.
2. GONZALEZ SOSA READ NOTE CAREFULLY AND WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT WE COULD NOT BE MORE FORTHCOMING BUT APPRECIATED ELEVATED AND CORDIAL TONE OF NOTE. HE TOOK ISSUE WITH STATEMENT IN PARA D THAT THERE EXISTS SERIOUS UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG U.S. FARM WORKERS AND THAT TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT WILL PROBABLY FURTHER REDUCE DEMAND FOR HAND LABOR IN AGRICULTURE, MAINTAINING THAT REGARDLESS OF OVER-ALL UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES, THERE WAS AN EVIDENT SHORTAGE OF HAND LABOR TO DO DISAGREEABLE AND DIFFICULT FARM TASKS, AS WITNESSED BY NUMBERS OF ILLEGAL ALIENS WHO FIND READY EMPLOYMENT ON FARMS. SUCH EMPLOYEES ARE EXPLOITED BY FARM OWNERS AND BRACERO-TYPE AGREEMENT WOULD ENSURE GOOD TREATMENT ALONG WITH PREVENTING UNFAIR COMPETITION TO U.S. WORKERS AS BRACEROS WOULD HAVE SAME TO EQUAL PAY AND SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS.

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3. I STRESSED THAT WE MUST DISTINGUISH BETWEEN BRACEROS AND

ILLEGAL ALIENS AND POINTED OUT THAT ANY CONCEIVABLE BRACERO AGREEMENT WOULD BE MEANINGLESS IF ALONG SIDE IT LARGE NUMBERS OF ILLEGAL ALIENS CONTINUED TO ENTER COUNTRY. I POINTED OUT THAT THIS HAS ALMOST REACHED "MASS POPULATION TRANSFER." I URGED, ALONG LINES OF NOTE, THAT GOM ALSO ATTEMPT TO DO ITS SHARE TO IMPEDE ACCESS OF ILLEGAL MIGRANTS.

4. CONVERSATION WAS CORDIAL THROUGHOUT AND GONZALES SOSA REITERATED THAT HE WOULD PRESIDE OVER CONSULAR CONFERENCE IN LOS ANGELES AUGUST 6 AND 7 AT WHICH SOME FOURTEEN MEXICAN CONSULAR OFFICIALS WOULD BE PRESENT. IN ADDITION TO PROBLEMS OF ILLEGAL MIGRANTS WOULD ALSO DEAL WITH MEXICAN VISA PROBLEMS FOR FOREIGN TOURISTS, INCREASING TOURISM AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND ALSO THORNY CUSTOMS PROBLEMS, WHICH HE RECOGNIZED WERE OFTEN AN IMPEDIMENT TO TOURISM AND GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN US. HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED TO CONSULAR CONFERENCE BY MEMBERS OF GOBERNACION, HACIENDA, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE AND TOURISM DEPARTMENTS.

ACTION REQUESTED: RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT ATTEMPT TO ENSURE THAT CONSULAR CONFERENCE BE GIVEN APPROPRIATE COURTESIES.

5. REGARDING PRESS RELEASE, GONZALEZ SOSA REQUESTED THAT WE DELAY RELEASE UNTIL HE IS ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH RABASA, WHO CURRENTLY IN CARACAS WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA. HE WOULD WIRE HIM THE TEXT OF NOTE AND WOULD ALSO SPEAK TO HIM ABOUT THE LINE OF THE PRESS RELEASE AND HOPED TO TELEPHONE ME TONIGHT OR TOMORROW. HE INDICATED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT RABASA MIGHT WITH TO POSTPONE RELEASE UNTIL HIS ACTUAL RETURN TO THE COUNTRY JULY 31, AS "BRACERO" INITIATIVE VERY MUCH RABASA'S BABY.

6. I TOLD GONZALEZ SOSA THAT I WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE DEPARTMENT ACCEPTING HIS SUGGESTION THAT WE DELAY RELEASE UNTIL HE WAS ABLE TO COORDINATE WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY AND HE ALSO PROMISED SECRECY.

JOVA

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